

A T A L E
O F
TWO SWANNES.

Wherein is comprehended the original
and increase of the RIVER LEE,
Commonly called WARE-RIVER:

Together with the Antiquitie of fundrie Places
and Townes seated upon the same.

Pleasant to be read, and not altogether un-
profitable to be understood.

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T O T H E
R E A D E R.

THE reasons be manifold (good reader) that mooved me to publish thys present Tale. First, that I might (in what I was able) illustrate, or make better known to the world, my countrie or place of byrth: to which (as Cicero saith) each man doth ow the third part of his life, and for which ther is no good man; but wil jeopard his life, adventure his safetie, and hazard the dearest things hee dooth possesse. Neither yet was there ever any man so brutish, but rejoyceth to hear his countrie commended, and is delighted when he heareth the same wel spoken off and praised. Such is the affection that every man beareth to it, that Ovid, expressing the same, said, he could not tel howe it came to passe, nor whence it should proceede. His words be these:

Nescio qua natale solum dulcedine cunctos
Ducit, &c.

Hence it came to passe that antiquity gave divine honor to such as had deserved wel of their countrie: either in peace, by inventing something to the profit or wealth thereof: or in war, by adventring their bodies in defence thereof.

Another reason was, that albeit neither my writing, nor other indeavour whatsoever, be able to perfourm any thing that might either beautifie or adorne the places I speake of: Yet hereby I would animate, or encourage those worthy Poëts, who have written Epithalamion Thamesis, to publish the same. I have seen it in Latine verse (in my judgment) wel done, but the Author, I know not for what reason, doth suppress it. That which is written in English, though long since it was promised, yet is it not perfourmed. So as it seemeth, some unhappy Star envieth the sight of so good a work: which once set abroad, such trifles as these would vanish, and be overshadowed, much like the Moon and other Starres, which after the appearing of the Sunne are not to be seen at all.

Thirdly, being fully resolved to leave my country, I held best before my departure Cigneum aliquid canere: not unlike the Swans, who before their death do sing, as Virgil, Ovid, Horace, Martial with all the Poëts do constantly affyrme. The Philosophers say it is because of the spirit, which, labouring to passe thorow the long and small passage of her necke, makes a noise as if she did

did sing. Pythagoras did thinke their soules were immortal, and saith, how before their Death, they rejaice and sing as going to a better Life. The maner of their singing M. Thomas Watfon in his Odes expresseth thus :

*Qualis ubi longo mœrore Caystrius ales
Confectus senio gravi, &c.*

Which verses A. F. hath englished on this wise :

*Like to the silver Swan, who seeing death to be comming,
Wandreth alone for a while through streams of lovely Cayster:
Then to the flowring bankes all faint at last he repairth,
Singing there, sweet bird, his dieng song to Cayster :
Geving there, sweet bird, his last farewell to Cayster :
Yeelding up, sweet bird, his breath and song to Cayster.*

The last, and not the least motive was my friendes request, whose importunate demaund, without breach of amitie, I could not gainsay : to whom, as also to thy favourable construction (curteous and friendly reader) I commit the same.

JOHN TURNER of the worke.

TO tell a Tale, and tell the trueth withall,
To write of waters, and with them of land.
To tell of Rivers, where they rise and fall.
To tell where Cities, Townes, and Castles stand.
To tell their names both old and new,
With other things that be most true.

Argues a Tale that tendeth to some good.
Argues a Tale that hath in it some reason.
Argues a Tale, if it be understood,
As looke the like, and you shall find it geason.
If when you reade, you find it so,
Commend the worke and let it goe.

A Tale of TWO SWANNES.

WHEN nature, nurse of ev'ry living thing,
Had clad her charge in brave and new aray;
The hills rejoyft to see themselves so fine:
The fields and woods grew proud therof also:

The medowes with their partie-colour'd coates,
Like to the Rainebow in the azur'd skie,
Gave just occasion to the cheerfull birdes,
With sweetest note, to sing their nurse's praise:
Among the which, the merrie *Nightingale*
With swete and swete (her brest again a thorne)
Ringes out all night the never ceasing laudes
Of God, the author of her nurse and all.

About this time the Lady *Venus* viewd
The fruitfull fieldes of pleasant *Hartfordshire*:
And saw the river, and the meades thereof
Fit for to breede her birdes of greatest prise.
She calles in hafte for winged *Mercurie*,
And sendes him to *Cayster*, silver streame.
Fetch me (saith she) two Cignets of the best,
And in the Laund, hard by the parke of *Ware*,
Where *Fanshawe* buildes for his succeeding race,
Thy speedie comming I will there await.
The messenger of all the heav'nly court.
Makes hafte away to doo his mistresse quest:
And from the brood two Cignets of esteeme
He sleely takes, unseene of any Swannes,
Which in that river be so plentifull.

To *Ware* he comes, and to the Launde he flies,
Where *Venus*, like the Goddesse of great Love,
Sate lovely by the running river side,
Tuning her Lute unto the waters fall,
Wherewith she did record the love and armes
Of mightie *Mars*, the God of dreadfull warre.

The present come, she layeth downe her Lute,
And takes these Cignets of so great esteeme,

Thorw.

Throwing them both into her river *Lee* :
And posted straight up to the throne of *Jove*,
Where lovely, like to verie love it selfe,
Shee set her selfe upon her yeelding knee,
And craves of him but onely this request,
That her two Swannes might prosper in the streame,
And rule the rest, as worthie King and Queene.

The mightie *Jove*, unwilling to denie
His daughter's sute, for feare of further ill,
Graunts her request : and more to pleasure her,
Saith, that these two so fruitfull shall become,
That all the Swannes, yea, the verie Thames
Shall be replenisht with their princely race.
Venus yeeldes thanks, and hastes her selfe away
To mount *Trochya*, where she tooke her rest.

Long liv'd these Swannes in *Lee*, with great increase
Of honour, royaltie, and in high 'state :
Inricht with issue of the fayrest breede,
That lives in *Severne*, *Humber* or in *Trent*,
The chiefeest foudes that water *English* ground.
Three times had *Venus* us'd them for to draw
Her Ivory Chariot through the loftie ayre.
A speciall favour (as the Poëts say)
Graunted to such, as she holdes in accompt.

Now as these Swannes began to waxen old,
As time outweares eche creature that doth live :
It pleased them to send throughout their realme,
For all their subjectes of the highest bloud :
With full intent to make a progresse cleane
Throughout their land to see the boundes thereof,
And ev'ry brooke that harbours anie Swanne,
With all the Isles that unto them belong.
No sooner was this message knowne abroad,
But there resorted to their being place
Such troupes of milke-white Swannes, as well beseem'd
The royall state of two such princes great.
Among which troupes the King and Queene made choise
Of fortie Swannes of high and royall bloud,
For to attend upon their Majesties.
Then looke how *Cynthia* with her silver rayes
Exceedes the brightnesse of the lesser starres,
When in her chiefeest pompe she hasteth downe
To steale a kisse from drouisie *Endymion* :

So doe these princes farre excell in state
The Swannes that breede within *Europa's* boundes.

And in this pompe they hie them to the head,
Whence *Lee* doth spring, not farre from *Kempton* towne,
And swiftly comming downe through *Brooke-hall* parke,
Leaves *Whethamsted*, so called of the corne.
By *Bishops-Hatfield* then they come along,
Seated not farre from antient *Verolane* :
His Citie, that first spent his blessed life,
In iust maintaining of our Christian faith.

{ The first
arme of
increase.

When they had past *Hartingsfordbury* towne,
A quite contrarie course they doe finde out :
And though it were some labour gainst the streame
To trace this River, feeding chritall *Lee* ;
Yet worthily they holde their first resolve,
And up by *Tewing*, wide of *Butlers* house,
To *Digswell* haste, where *Horsley* dwelt of late :
And then to *Welwine*, passing well beknowne,
And noted for a worthie stratagem :
I meane the *Danes*, who on *S. Bryces* night
Were stoutly mured by their women foes.
To *Whitwell* short; whereof doth burbling rise
The spring, that makes this little river runne.

Thence backe againe unto the chiefeest towne
Of all the shire, and greatest of accompt,
Defended with a Castle of some strength,
Well walled, dyched, and amended late,
By her, the onely mirror of the world,
Our gracious Queene and Prince *ELIZABETH*.

Not far from hence stands many a milke-white Swanne,
Attending for to entertaine their Prince :
Among the which was one of chiefe accompt
That busked up his winges in greatest pride,
And so salutes this worthie companie :
And with a speeche that well did him beseeume,
He tels " how that neere *Walkborne*, *Capel's* seate,

{ These
cond.

" The *Bene* doth rise, and gives his proper name
" To *Benington*, and so to *Watton* runnes :
" And then by *Staplefoord*, to *Beneghoo* heere,
" Where we, with all the Swannes and Cignets both,
" That live in *Bene*, doe rest at your command.
Right graciously the Princes tooke his speeche,
And so departed towards *Edwardes Ware*.
But ere they come unto the *Meade* or *Laund*,

Where

Where *Venus* first did put them in estate,
 They passed up a river of good depth,
 The greatest branch that feedeth christall *Lee*.
 With speedie pace (as Swannes doe use to swimme)
 They passe to *Wadesmill*, and to *Thundrich Church*,
 And so to *Standon*, honour'd with the house
 Of worthie *Sadler Knight*, and Counseller
 To all the Children of King *Henry* seventh:
 Whose sonne surviving holdes the verie path,
 That leades to vertue and to honours throne.
 By *Puckbridge* likewise they do swiftly passe:
 And so to *Horne-meade* more and lesse, and then
 To *Withihall*, to *Buckland* and to *Barckway* both,
 Where is the head and verie utmost bound
 Of this surpassing cleere and goodly streame.

{ The
third }

Returning backe againe, the companie
 Were marshalled and set in order brave.
 And this was done least that undecently
 They should passe by the guested towne of *Ware*.
 Thus ordered, they come by *Byrches* house,
 That whilom was the Brothers Friers place:
 Then by the Crowne, and all the Innes of *Ware*:
 And so approching to the late built bridge,
 They see the barges lading malt apace;
 And people wondering at so great a troope:
 Among the which, a man whose silver heares
 Seem'd to excell the whiteneffe of the rest,
 Bespake them thus:

" Long have I liv'd, and by this bridge was borne,
 " Yet never saw I such a companie:
 " So well beseene, so order'd, and so faire.
 " Nay (as I thinke) the age that is by past,
 " Nor yet the same that after shall insue
 " Never beheld, nor lookt upon the like.

The people listened to this aged man,
 As one they lov'd, and held in reverence.
 And as they stoode, behold a sodaine chance:
 From South-side of the bridge, hard by the same,
 Two goodly Swannes with Cignets full fiftene
 Present themselves and theirs unto the Prince:
 Excusing well their slackenesse and offence
 In not appearing at their first command.
 The Queene beholding such a goodly broode,
 Receiv'd them all, and pardon'd everie misse:

{ A rivelet
or rill. }

Demanding where they us'd, and all their state.
 After a becke in signe of humble thanks,
 The Cocke made answere with a modest grace.

“ A place there is, not farre from hence (O King)
 “ A chalkie hill, beneath the same a hole,
 “ Cal'd *Chadwell* head, whence issues out a streame,
 “ That runnes behind broad Meade that you see heere :
 “ A little rill, yet great inough for us,
 “ And these our breede. yet (gratious Prince) behold
 “ A tale there is deliver'd unto us
 “ From hand to hand, how that a haunted ducke,
 “ Diving within this *Chalk-well* head or hole,
 “ Was forced underneath the hollow ground
 “ To swimme along by waies that be unknowne :
 “ And afterward at *Amwell* spring (they say)
 “ Was taken up all fetherlesse and bare.

The King and Lordes tooke pleasure at the tale,
 And so made haste quite through the arched bridge
 { The } To *Amwell*, when they easilie did 'spie
 fifth. { The spring and rill that comes out of the hill,
 And is suppos'd to rise at *Chadwell* head.

Beneath the same comes downe a little streame
 That fosters Swannes, and comes from *Haddam* small :
 { The } And so by *Haddam*, where the Bishops house
 sixth. { Hath bene of long, and so to *Wydford* towne :
 And here at *Amwell* falles into the *Lee*.

Then troupes this traine to *Stansted*, call'd *Le Thele*,
 And *Stansted* where as *Bashe* did lately build,
 Whose sonne yeeldes hope of vertue worth the place
 And livinges which his father purchast him.

And here againe out of the kingly streame
 { The } They passe by *Roydon* through little *Estwyke* quite.
 tenth. { Then they salute *Hunsdon* the nurserie
 And foster house of thrise renowmed Swannes :
 Whose honour, and whose noble progenie
 Gives glorie to that honourable house.
 Lord, how they live all glorious as the sunne,
 With types and titles fit for their degree,
 As kinsmen to our most redoubted Queene,
 And men of high desert unto the state !

From hence to *Sapsford*, and to *Starford*, cald
 The Bishops : then to *Farnam* and to *Maunden*,
 And so to *Clavering*, where it riseth first,
 And then comes downe againe into the *Lee*.

From

A tale of two Swannes.

XIII

From *Stansted* unto *Hodsdon* goe these Swannes,
From thence to *Braxborne*, and to *Wormley* wood
And so salute the holy house of Nunnes,
That late belong'd to captaine *Edward Dennis*,
A knight in *Ireland* of the best accompt
Who late made execution on our foes,
I meane of *Spanyardes*, that with open armes
Attempted both against our Queene and us :
There now Lord *Talbot* keepes a noble house.

1588.

Now see these Swannes the new and worthie seate
Of famous *Cicill*, treasoror of the land,
Whose wisedome, counsell, skill of Princes state
The world admires, then Swannes may doe the same :
The house it selfe doth shewe the owners wit,
And may for bewtie, state, and every thing,
Compared be with most within the land.

Thebals.

Downe all along through *Waltham* street they passe,
And wonder at the ruines of the Abbay,
Late supprest, the walles, the walkes, the monumentes,
And everie thing that there is to be seene.
Among them all a rare devise they see,
But newly made, a waterworke : the locke
Through which the boates of *Ware* doe passe with malt.
This locke contains two double doores of wood,
Within the same a Cesterne all of Plancke,
Which only fils when boates come there to passe
By opening of these mightie dores with sleight,
And strange devise, but now decayed fore.
And as they staid here, they chaunst to see
The stately crosse of *Elnor*, *Henries* wife.
Then *Enfield* house, that longes unto our Queene,
They all behold, and with due reverence
Salute the same.

From hence by *Hackney*, *Leyton*, and old-Foord,
They come to *Stratford*, cal'd also *the Bowe* :
And underneath the bridge that thwartes the streame
And partes the shires of *Middlesex*, and *Essex* both.
At last (though long and wearie was their way)
They come unto the mouth of river *Lee*,
Where all the Swannes of that part of the *Thames*
Attend to see this royall companie :
So that from *Woolwich* to *Blackwall* was seene
Nor water, nor the medowes thereabout.
For looke how in a frostie night or day,

When

When Snowe hath fallen thicke upon the ground,
 Eche gasing eye is dasel'd with the sight,
 So Lillie-white was land and strand beseene
 With these faire Swannes, the birdes of lovely love.

After a noyse in signe of passing joy,
 A Swanne of *Thames* invites the King and Queene
 Upon a day prefixt, to see and celebrate
 The marriage of two Rivers of great name.
 Which granted, everie one departes his way,
 The King and Queene againe into their *Lee* :
 Where yet they live in health and happie state,
 Or if not so, they dyed but of late.

F I N I S.

A
 COMMENTARIE
 OR
 EXPOSITION

Of certain proper names used in this Tale.

H*Artford-shire*: so called of the town. King *Alfred* Hartford: was the first that devided this Land into Shires, Hundreds, and Tenthes, whereby hee repressed the outrages and robberies which the *English-men* (following therein the *Danes*) committed one upon another. Hee appointed that every man should be in some Hundred or Tenth, and if he were accused of any offence, if he found not in his Hundred or Tenth a suertie or pléde for himself, he was grievously punished. Hereby he brought to passe, that hanging golden bracelets by crof-waies, there was none durst steale or take them away. This Shire aboundeth in plenty of corne, pasture, medowes, water and woods: and hath in it 120. Parishes.

Lee, called also *Lygan*, *Lygean* and *Luy*.

Lee.

Cayster. A river in *Boëtia*, where is supposed the fairest and largest Swannes doo breede.

Cayster.

Fanshawe. One of the remembrancers of her Majesties court of Exchequer: an upright Justicer, and one that especially tendereth the profit of *Ware*, whereof he hath purchased the Lordship.

Fanshawe.

Ware. Builded in the year of our Lord 914. by *K. Edward* the sonne of *K. Alfred*. This towne since the building thereof hath greatly increased, and by procuring to themselves the free passage of their bridge greatly hindred the Shire-towne of *Hartford*. For in old time the bridge was chained and kept by the Bailiefe of *Hartford*, but in the time of King *John*, when the Barons warred one against another, and against

Ware.

gainst the King himselfe, the townesmen, trusting to their Lord *Wake*, brake the chaine, and have ever since enjoyed their passage, whereby it is greatly encreased, and is likely still to doo, aswell for that by meanes of the Lord Treasurer the river is made passable for boates and barges, as also through the diligence of the Townesmen, who, with helpe of M. *Fanshawe*, have erected a newe markett-house, with intent to procure certaine Fayres to be helde there yeerely. The Bridge was reedified lately, and the arches made of stone at the charges, viz. 140. poundes geven by her Majestie. The rest by the Towne and Countrie.

Thames. *Thames*, the chiefest river of *England*. The name is derived of *Tame* and *Ifis*, which rising in *Glocester-shire*, runneth to the towne of *Tame*, where joyning together, they make the *Thames*, whereof read *Leland*, or M. *Harison* in his description of *Britaine*.

Severne. *Severne*, a river that arriseth in *Wales*, passeth by *Montgomery*, *Shrewsburie*, *Brydgenorth*, *Bewdly*, *Worcester*, *Glocester*, and *Bristol*. It parteth *Wales* and the West countrey, and falleth into the sea betwyxt *Mylford Haven* and *Padstow*. The course of this River as also the rest require a speciall treatise.

Humber. *Humber*, or rather *Hull*, falleth into the Sea at *Raven-spur*, and ariseth out of sundrie Rivers, whose confluence make a mighty water. &c.

Trent. *Trent* is one of the most excellent Rivers in *England*, and, as M. *Harison* saith, increased with so many Waters, as it seemeth it may be compared with *Severne* or *Ouse*, of which River whosoever is desirous to see or read more may find the same in M. *Harrison's* workes, and therefore I omit to speake further of it.

Cynthia. *Cynthia*, the Moone.

Endymion. *Endymion*, a shepheard, who (as the Poëts faine) was cast a sleepe upon the hill *Latmos* an hundred yeares by the Moone, to the intent she might enjoy his love.

Verolane. *Verolane*, called by *Antonine Verolanium*, of *Tacitus Verulanium*, of *Ptolomy Verolanium*. The Saxons called it *Watlingchester* of the high-way called *Watlingstreete*, and *Werlancheester* of the river *Werlam* that ran by it. And yet it is called *Verulam*, albeit there be nothing left but the ruines and rubbish of the walles. It hath bene a citie in old time of great and especiall account, well walled, and defended with a great fishing pond, which wel neer did compasse it. There is yet to

to be scene (as M. Camden saith) ancient coyne with this Inscription, *Tasc. Verul.* which Doctor Powell interpreteth to be *Tributum Verulamii*. For *Tasc* in *Walsh* signifieth tribute, and *Tascia* a tribute penie. This citie was greatly distressed in the time of *Nero* the Emperour by the warres which *Bund-wica* the Queene made against the *Romans*, as may easily appeare to such as be any thing at all conversant in reading the *Romane* histories: yet did it flourish againe, and continued in good estate, and among other thinges famous for bringing forth to the world *Albon* the Prothomartyr, or first martyr of this land, of whome M. Gerard Leigh in his accidence of armorie wryteth: "*Albon* was knight of the *Bath*, and Lord of *Verolane*, nowe called Saint *Albons*: who in his youth, for the honour of this realme, made a royall chalenge of Justes at *Rome*, and did there other Knightly disportes in Armour, where hee had onelye the prise, and was made Knight by *Dyoclesian* then Emperour of *Rome*, who had this Realme then in Subjection.

"This *Albon* was Prince of Knightes, and Soveraigne Steward of *Brittaines*: and after was converted to the faith of Christ by *Amphybalus* that holy Knight, who went to *Rome* with *Bassianus* the Sonne of *Severus* in the companie of 1500. of the chiefe Lordes sonnes of *Brittaine* and *Cornewall*, where *Zepherinus* then Bishop privily instructed him in the fayth of Christ, which, at his returne, he taught to *Albon* in such sort, that openly professing the same, they were in the time of the Emperour *Dyoc'esian* both martyred". Whereof you may reade in *Gildas* and *Bede*. After this, the Citie was yet in good estate, until the time of the *Saxons*, when *Osta* and *Eosa* taking it for their refuge, were besieged by *Uther Pendragon*, who brake the walles and defaced it. After this, by litle and litle it languished, so that it became a denne or harbour of theeves and harlots, untill King *Offa*, about the yeare of our Lord 793. builded an Abbey in honor of S. *Albon*, in a place called *Hornelhurst*. Hencefoorth the olde Citie decayed, and S. *Albons* flourished. And *Alfricke* the seventh Abbot of the house bought the fishing pond of the King: and for that the Fisher-men dayly endomaged the religious people, it was with great cost drayned and made drie. There remaineth at this day a street in S. *Albons*, called *Fishpoole* street: and for that there hath bene found about the Citie, anchors, keles of boates, old nailes, and such trash, some have supposed the *Thames* to have runne that way, which er-

rour grewe by corruption of *Gyldas's* booke, where he mentioneth of *S. Albon's* death. But it is not so. but hear what ancient Recordes doo testifie concerning the same.

In the time of King *Edgar*, when *Aegelred* was Abbot, he caused the ruines of *Verolane* to be searched, the vaultes to bee uncovered, and the pavements to be digged up: where he found Pillers, peeces of antique worke, thresholds, door-frames, pillers for windowes of fine masonrie worke, some of Porphyrie, some Touch, some Alabaster, all which were verie convenient for his purpose. Besides hee found sockets of Lat-tyn, and of Brasse, with divers other thinges which he reserved towards the foundation of a new Abbey, which he intended to build. But being prevented by death, *Edmerus* his successor digged againe, and found idols, altars richly covered, jugs and cruses with pots, some of wood, some stone, and some gold, artificially wrought and carved. And proceeding farther, he found pots of gold, silver, and some of brasse, some with coyne, and some with bones and ashes of such as have bene burned or buried: all which were reserved, and the met-tels melted, and kept for this new Abbaie, which being at last finished was indowed with great store of livinges and manifold privileges, and the new towne of *S. Albons* dayly more and more increased, famous as well for the Abbey, as also for two notable civill battailes fought there during the faction betwixt the two great houses of *Yorke* and *LANCASTER*. Thus much of *Verolane*, whereof more might be said, which for brevitie sake I omit.

*Bishops Hat-
field or
Hethfield.*

Bishops Hatfield or Hethfield. *John Morton* Bishop of *Ely* builded there a house which nowe belongeth to her Ma-jestie.

Hunsdon.

Hunsdon, as *Leland* reporteth, belonged once to the *Bobuns* and *Bernyers*, from them to the *Howards*. *Tho.* duke of *North-folk*, suspecting that a tower of the house would fall by reason of the height, tooke downe a part thereof. And King *Henrie* the eight making an exchange with the Duke, newly reedified the house; since whose time it is honoured with the title of a Barannie, which *Henry Cary*, Lord Chamberlaine of her Ma-jesties household, liefetenant of *Northfolke* and *Suffolke*, and Captaine of *Barwike*, at this day enjoyeth.

Hartford.

Hartford, called by *Antonine* and the Romans *Durocbrivas*. The *Brittaines* or *Welshmen* call red water *Dur Coh*, and *Briva* as wel with them as also with the antient *Galls* signifieth over the water, as *Briva Odera*, *Briva Issara*, which signifie pas-sages

sages over rivers of the same name. The Saxons called it *Herudford*, as in one booke remaining with *John Stowe* (a diligent searcher and preserver of Antiquities) it is written *Heorutford*. *Bede* in the fourth booke of his Ecclesiasticall history mentioneth how *Theodorus* Archbishop of *Canterbury* held a Synod or Provinciaall counsell at *Herudford*, Anno 670. but now it is corruptly (as I thinke) called *Hartford*, which *Leland* interpreteth *Cervi vadum*, the foord of *Hartes*. It hath bene in olde time of good account, as well by reason of the Castel as also of the Priory. The Castel was builded first by *Edward* senior in the ninth yeare of his raigne, as *Henry Huntington* saith, whose wordes be: *Edvardus Anno 9. regni sui construxit Herefordium castrum non immensum sed pulcherrimum tamen inter Benefician, Mimeram, & Ligeam, flumina non profunda sed clarissima tamen*. This Castel hath since beene increased by the *Clares*, and then by the Dukes of *Lancaster*. For *Roger de Clare* in *Henry* the second his time was created Erle of *Hartford*. And *Robert Fitzwalter* that came of the same house in King *Stevens* time did boldly affirme that the keeping of the Castel did of right belong unto him. *Henry* the third gave the Castel with the honour belonging to it to *William Valence* Erle of *Penbroke*, Anno 1247. After it fell to the Dukes of *Lancaster*, who used to lodge at it verie often. In the yeare of our Lord 1357. the Queene of *Scottes*, sister to King *Edward* the third, departed this life, lying at *Hartford* with her sister in law the Queene of *England*, and in the year 1458. for a fray made in *Fleetstreet* in *London*, the King sent the principals of *Clifford*, *Furnivall*, and *Barnardes* In, as Prisoners to *Hartford* Castel. King *Henry* the sixt used often to keepe his *Christmas* there: and, to conclude, King *Edward* the sixt was nursed and schooled there.

The Priorie was builded by *Ralfe* Lord *Lymesey*, who came into *England* with *William the Conquerour*, and was (as the Monkes reported) his sisters sonne.

The townesmen of late have procured to themselves a new corporation, and have on the *Saterday* a good market and every yeare three faires. In *Edward* the 3. time, as I have seene in an olde record, they had two markets in the weeke and but two fayres.

In the time of *Henry* the eight, viz. 1507. there was a Paper-Mill at *Hartford*, and belonged to *John Tate*, whose father was Mayor of *London*.

Waltham.

Waltham, a market towne. The Abbay was builded by King *Harold*, who shortly after he had built it was slaine by *William the Conqueror*. His mother with great and earnest sute obtained his body, and intoumbed the same in the Abbay.

Elnors
Crosse.

Elnors Crosse, commonly called *Waltham Crosse*. K. *Henry* the first set it up in memory of his wife (who died in *Lincolnshire*;) and wheresoever her body was caried, there he erected a Crosse with the armes of *England*, *Castile* and *Pontoys*, geuen on the same, of which the Crosse in *Chepe*, and *Charing* Crosse be two of the fayrest.

To his Beloved Father

JOHN VALLANS,

*W. V. wisheth the grace of God with
Health and Prosperitie.*

THE dutie (deare Father) I owe unto you, the regard of my promise, together with the remembrance of your reasonable request, doo not a litle moove me to write a few words concerning the matter whereof, at my being with you last, wee with certaine of our friendes talked. And I am well assured that you remember what a styr *N. B.* kept, when I said that ships had bene at *Ware*, affyrming, how it was unpossible that that river, which but of late was scarce able to bear a smal whyrrie, shold in times past beare big and mighty ships. Truly his wordes were many and great, but his reasons were smal. And since that at that time I promised to send you in a letter a plaine and evident prooffe of those words which there I uttered, I doubt not but in these few lines fully to satisfie, not only your request, but also your mind, and confirme you in that opinion which fewe men (unlesse such as be altogether ignorant of the matter and of the place) wil denie. And first I will shew you the cause for which the ships went thither, and what they did there. Then will I plainly proove both by authoritie and examples, that it is likely that they were there. Lastly, I wil (as my promise was) shew you about what time and by whome *Ware* was builded.

That Ships have been at Ware.

THE *Danes*, who (as *Polidor Virgil* saith) dwelled in olde time beyond *Ister*, but now be they inhabitants of the *Germane* Ocean or *Denmark*, perceiving how that their Country

try was overmuch pressed with the great multitude of people that inhabited the same, determined to subdue the land, to drive out the *English-men*, and to plant themselves and their posterity for ever in the same. For perfourming and accomplishing whereof they armed great store of chosen souldiers, who about the yeare 832. in 34. ships entered the river of *Thames*, landed by great force, spoiled, fired, and wasted the Country so far, that *Egbert*, who then was King of the more part of *England*, was faine with an hoast of men to succour and relieve his distressed subjectes. But such was the will of God for the punishment of sinne that then was rise, that the King joining battaile with the *Danes*, was by them discomfited and put to flight. After this battaile the *Danes* were so encouraged, that they came out of their Countrie like swarmes of Bees; so that if in one weeke there were five thousand of them slaine, yet in the weeke following there would come eight thousand more to supply their roomes. They were oftentime discomfited, and the greater part of them driven backe by divers valiant Kinges and Princes. But yet by reason of their often arrivall, their force was still increased and maintained. One while they arrived in one place, and then in an other, spoiling, burning, and killing all they could come by. It were too long to tell, and verie grievous it is to thinke how religion was decayed, learning forgotten, all partes and quarters of the Realme wasted and spoiled; how cities, townes, churches, abbaies and religious houses were consumed with fire and flame; how miserablie the Commons were afflicted, how pitifully men, women and children, and all sortes of people went to wracke; how wonderfully the Kinges themselves were amased, the comming of their enemies being both suddaine and violent; how cruelly fire and sword, famine and death ragged thorow out the land, heaven and earth intending as it were the fatall destruction and utter decay of the realme. This miserie continued the space of 300. and odde yeares, within which yeares, namely about the yeare of our Lord 917. the 23^d. yeare of King *Alfreds* raigne, a great armie of *Danes*, having received an overthrow at a place called *Buttington* beside *Severne*, fled into East *England*, and there wintered, and prepared a great hoast againe out of *Northumberland* and other places, leaving there their wives and children, together with their money, ships and munition, in East *England*, and with great speed got to the Citie of *Leagecester* (which at that time was desolate, the inhabitantes

inhabitanes having for feare of the *Danes* forsaken it) or ever King *Alfred* and *Ethered* the under King with their armies could overtake them. And yet such was the celeritie that King *Alfred* used in this pursuit, that or ever his enemies wonne the citie, he with his companie tooke a great deale of their carriage with all the booties of cattaille and other thinges that they in their journey by robbing and spoyling had obtained and driven away. Hee also besieged the citie two or three daies, but perceiving it woulde smally availe, he was faine (a grievous thing to heare) to burn up the greatest part of the corne that grewe there aboutes, and bestow the rest amongst his horses, least his enemies shoulde have the fruit and commoditie thereof. The *Danes* perceiving that, and seeing there was nothing left whereof they might live in those partes, departed from thence, and in great haste got them to North *Wales*, where they spoyled and harried the countrie farre and neere, driving away great booties of Cattel, and carrieng with them rich spoiles. From hence they departed, and because for feare of the *Mercians* they durst not traveile that way, they coasted along the countrie till they came to North-*umberland*, and so through Middle *England*, taking their ships, their wives and children out of East *England* with them, they arrived at a little Island scituate in the Sea, in the east part of *Essex*, called *Merseyge*. From thence they departed and came into the river of *Thames*; and seeing that Winter was now at hand, they drew or rowed their shippes up the river *Lygean*. And twentie miles from *London* they began to buylde a Fort, which being finished, they taried there all that wynter, spoyling, robbing and burning those quarters without mercy. When Winter was past, a great part of the Citizens of *London*, with those that inhabited neere thereaboutes, traveiled thether, and by force minded to breake downe the Fort or Munition which they had there buylded. But the *Danes* stoutlye resisted them, and not far from the place gave them a sharpe battaile, where the *Christians* were put to flight, and foure of King *Alfreds* men were slaine.

Thus the Pagane or Heathen *Danes* remained Lordes or Maisters of those quarters, compelling the husbandmen to eare and till the ground, meaning themselves to reape the commoditie of it. But the good King *Alfred*, who alwaies was carefull for the welfare of his subjectes, gathered an armie, and before harveft time pitched his tents neer to the place of their abode. By whose comming the enemies were so afraid,

fraid, that they durst not once peepe out of their hold to fetch either cattell or corne out of the fields by force. In this space, it happened on a time, as the King rode alongst by the river side, he viewed the water, and perceived how that in some places of it the chanell might easily be stopped, and the streame made lesse. Whereupon he (as *Huntington* writeth) caused it to be cut into three severall braunches or armes. But howsoever it was, hee so weakened the streame, that the *Danes* could not bring back their ships the same way they came. Which thing the *Danes* perceiving, and knowing well it was in vaine for them to abide any longer there, they left their Ships, and fled by land as fast as they could to *Quatbridge*, sending their wives and children againe into East *England*. After this the King departed, and the *Londoners* and Countermen seeing the *Danes* were gone, burst downe their Holde, and got some of their ships backe againe to *London*, and the rest they burned and brake all to peeces.

But here peradventure you will aske me, how I shoulde come by the knowledge of these thinges, beeing done so many hundred yeares agoe? To this I answer, that in things that were done long before any man that is now living can remember, we must credit that our Fathers have committed to writing concerning the same. And in my opinion the neerer the reporter liveth to those times in which the thinges he speaketh or writeth of were done, the more credite is to beee given to him.

And as concerning this matter, it is confirmed by the reporte of a verie auncient, reverent and learned Wryter, namely *Afferus Menevensis*, Bishop of Saint *Davies*, that lived in the verie selfe same time when these thinges were done, and *Maryanus Scotus*, who lived and wrote a Chronicle at least 500. yeares ago, as *Florentius* a Monk of *Worcester*, who continued it, doth witnesse and declare. Besides divers others of great antiquitie and credite, as *Henry* of *Huntington*, *Mathew* of *Westminster*, and manie moe, who doe all confirme that which is before declared. Besides there remayneth yet the ruines of an old Castel or Fort betweene *Hartford* Castel and the Mill, which I doe undoubtedly beleve was the verie selfe same Fort that the *Danes* builded.

Moreover, *O. Crosse* did credibly enforme me that at the building of *Stansted* bridge, there were found within the river peeces of broken ships or craers, nayles and other thinges which

which seemed to belong to some great ships or vessels. All which thinges considered, together with the parting of the streame before remembred, me thinkes should be sufficient to confirme your minde, and cause you to beleve that there have bene ships at *Ware* and *Hartford*.

Hereunto it may bee added that it was a common use of the *Danes* to row or drawe up their ships into some smalle creeke or river where that they might ride all winter with least danger. And time worketh some alteration both by water and by land, that where great rivers did sometimes run, now it is utterlie drie, and in stead of maine waters we have goodly and flourishing meades. And in like sort where goodly cities and castels sometimes did stand there now groweth corne. For examples of this we need not seeke far, since that in *London* not above 277. yeeres ago, namely in the yeere of our Lord 1300. when *Henry Waleys* was Mayor of the citie there ran a river through *Walbrook* with two bridges over it, whereof *William Jordan* and *John de Bever* were maisters and governours. What is become of the river *Were* that ran by *S. Albons*, of which the great city that in old time stood there took the name and was called *Werlamchester*, whereof *Leland* in his commentaries maketh mention? Concerning cities the diligent reader of *Chronicles* shall meet with the names of many, of which there is at this day no rubbish nor ruin to be seen, as of *Andres Chester*, that stood in *Suffex* on the edge of the great wood called *Andreds weale*; of *Ithancester*, that stood in the river *Panta* in *Essex*; and of infinite moe, of which, as I sayd, there is left no token, but as the Poët saith, *Jam seges est ubi Troja fuit*. Thus have you heard (deare father) both the doings of the *Danes* not only in *England*, but also what they made in those parts of the land whereof we talked, and where you dwel. There remaineth now to write unto you, as I promised, how long it is since *Ware* was built, and in what Kinges daies the same was done, of which I minde to say no more then that which hath bene alreadie written by such as have in their Histories and *Chronicles* made mention of such townes as were builded by King *Edward* thereabouts. And heerein I cannot but much mislike of their opinion that affirme that the towne of *Hartford* was builded by King *Edward* the first before the Conquest; seeing that by the very wordes of *Huntington* it appeareth that it was but the Castel that he builded. For we read in *Beda* his history of a counsel of Bishops that was

held at *Hartford* long before *Edwardes* time. This Castel I meane of *Hartford* was builded in the year of our Lord 912. by *Edward* the sonne of King *Alfred*, and two yeares after he builded a towne on the North side of *Lee*, which is the same that I doe take to be *Ware*, and was in hand when *Witham* in *Essex* was also begun, namely 663. yeares since. Thus much (father) for this time I thought good to write unto you concerning this matter, nothing doubting but that hereafter, when all thinges be finished, that by meanes of the Lord Treasurer, maister *Fanshawe*, and other worshipfull men be in hand for the amendment and scowring of that river, you and I both shall see, though not shippes, yet good big boates and vessels passe too and fro betwixt *London* and *Ware*, to the commoditie and profite of the whole countrey, which God graunt.

Your obedient sonne *W. Vallans*.

F I N I S.

NOTES.

PAG. V. *A Tale* &c.] Tho' I have mention'd only *Hartford-shire* in my general Title Page, and in my Preface, yet this Tract takes in some other Places (in *Essex* and *Middlesex*) seated upon the River *Lee*. P. VI. l. 35. as *Virgil*, *Ovid*, *Horace*, *Martial* &c.] So I have corrected it. Before it was, as *Ovid*, *Virgil*, *Martial*, *Horace* &c. Ibid. l. 37. *Spirit*, *which*, *labouring*] I have supply'd this Place, the Word *which* being before wanting. P. VII. l. antepenult. *geason*.] Sic plane in Codice quo usus sum. P. VIII. l. 12. *of her nurse and all*.] Nonnulli forsan commate post *her* distinguendum esse censuerint. Ibid. l. 14. *pleasant*] I have added this word. Ibid. l. 19. *saith she*] So I have corrected it. Before 'twas, *saith he* P. IX. l. 15. *Trocha*] Non aliter in Cod. nostro. P. X. l. 9. *that first spent his* &c.] So I have corrected it. Before it was, *that first did spend his* &c. P. XI. l. 13. *To Withihall*, *to Buckland* &c.] Malim, *To Withiall*, *Buckland* &c. Ibid. l. 26. *heares*] Id est, *haires*. And so 'tis written with a Pen by Mr. RAWLINSON in the Margin of his Copy. Ibid. l. 40. *Present*] Antea, *presents*. P. XII. l. 12. *Chalk-well*] It should be rather *Chadwell*, as he writes it a little before and a little after. Or if *Chalk-well* be retain'd, then it should be so corrected in the other two Places. Ibid. l. 19. *'spie*] Antea, *espie*. Ibid. l. 26. *into the Lee*.] So I have corrected it. Before 'twas, *into the River Lee*. Ibid. l. 27. *Stansted*, *call'd Le Thele*.] I believe it should be rather, *Stan*, *call'd Le Thele*. It goes commonly by the Name of *Stantheele*. Ibid. l. 32. *through little Estwyke quite*.] Malim, *thorough Estwyke quite*. P. XIII. l. 27. *By opening of these* &c. So I have corrected it. Before 'twas, *By opening anie of these* &c. Ibid. l. 37. *And partes the shires* &c.] Rectius forsan, *And parteth Middlesex and Essex both*. P. XVI. l. 10. *at the charges*, &c.] Malim, *at great charges*, *whereof* 140. *poundes was geven by her Majestie*, *the rest by the Towne and Countrie*. Ibid. l. 13. *of Tame and Isis*.] This is the common opinion, but it has been rejected by others, and particularly by my late learned Friend Mr. EDWARD LHVYD. Ibid. l. 15. *Leland*] In his *Cygnea cantio*, which I design to reprint hereafter. P. XVII. l. 1. *ancient coyne*] F. *an ancient coyne*. This coyne I have had ingrav'd in the Title Page of

this Tract of *Vallans*. P. XVII. l. II. in his *accidence of armorie*] See fol. 38. a. of the first Ed. that came out at London in 4^{to}. 1568. imprinted in Fletestrete within Temple Barre at the signe of the hand and starre by Rychard Tottel. Ibid. l. 30. *Boja*] Sic rescripti. Antea, *Oesa*. Vide *Galfridum Monumethensem*, p. 63. *Heidelb.* MDLXXXVII. fol. P. XVIII. l. 31. as Leland reporteth] in his Commentaries upon the *Cyanea Cantio*, voc. *HYNDES DENA*. P. XIX. l. 12. *Edwardus* anno 9. &c.] Verba ista *Henrici Huntingdonensis* è Codice veteri, calamo exarato, penes *Joannem Stoweum*, aliumve quempiam antiquarium, ni fallor, descripsit auctor. Nondum prodierat rerum *Anglicarum* scriptorum post *Bedam* editio *Saviliana*. Hæc lucem adspexit *Francofurti*, typis *Wechelianiis* excusa, anno MDCI. ubi tamen locus hicce *Huntingdonensis* (qui pag. 353. l. 7. occurrit) hunc in modum concipitur: *Edwardus* rex anno 9. regni construxit *Herefordiam* castrum non immensum sed pulcherrimum inter *Beneficiam*, & *Mineram*, & *Luye* flumina non profunda sed clarissima. P. XXI. l. 21. And first I will shew you &c.] So I have corrected this Place. Before it was read thus: And for so much as the cause for which the ships went thither, and what they did there, then will I &c. P. XXIV. l. 6. as *Huntington* & saith] Pag. 351. l. 33. apud scriptores post *Bedam* ab illustrissimo *Savilio* editos. Ibid. l. ult. *craers*] Vide *Skinneri* Etymologicam Expositionem vocum antiquarum & obsoletarum, sub hac voce. P. XXV. l. 8. where that they might ride] Legend. vel, whereat they might ride, vel, omisso that, where they might ride. Ibid. l. 21. whereof Leland in his commentaries maketh mention? So I think 'tis to be pointed with an Interrogation, and not, as in the first Edition, with a Comma, after mention. It must be noted that *John Stowe* calls Mr. *Leland's Itinerary* (of which Work a vast deal, and, I am afraid, much the better Part, is now quite lost) by the Name of *Commentaries of England*. But Mr. *Vallans* (who was well acquainted with *Stowe*) does not mean Mr. *Leland's Itinerary*, but his *Commentaries upon the Cyanea Cantio*, where he discourses of the old *Verolanium*, call'd by the Saxons *Werlamcester*. Ibid. l. 25. as of *Andres Chester*] I have added the Word *of*, which was before wanting. Ibid. l. 26. *Ithanchester*] Vide *Camdeni Brit.* p. 320. Ed. MDCVII. P. XXVI. l. 6. & 633. *yeares since*.] Hence it appeareth that this Letter was written in the year 1575.

E Codice MS. membraneo penes Antiquitatum nostrarum egregium cultorem atque conservatorem THOMAM RAWLINSONVM, Arm. *Medii Templi* LONDINI Socium.

Here sueth the propertees of the Shyres of Engeland.

The propyrte of every shyre
 I shal you telle, and ye will here.
Herefordshire sheeld and spere:
Worsetershire wryngpere.
Gloucetershire sho and nayle:
Brystowe shippe and sayle.
Oxenfordshire gyrd the mare:
Warwykshire bynde bere.
London refortere:
Sowthery gret bragere.
Essex ful of good hoswyfes:
Middlesex ful of α stryves.
Kentshire hoot as fyre:
Sowseks ful of dyrt and myre.
Hertfordshire ful of wode:
Huntynghamshire corn ful goode.
Bedfordshire is nought to lakke:
Bokynghamshire is his maakke.
Northamptonshire fful of love
 Benethe the gyrdyll and noth above.
Lancastreshire fayre archere:
Chestreshire β Thwakkere.
Northumbrelond hasty and hoot:
Westmerlond γ tprut Scotte.
Yorkshire ful of δ Kynghtys:
Lincolnshire men ful of myghtys.

α So in the MS. not *foynes*, as I find it written in a loose leaf of Paper, (lying in the Book) containing a modern Transcript of these Verses. β So in the MS. not *The sakker*, as in the said Transcript. γ Sic. δ Sic.

Cam-

Cambrygeshire ful of pykes :

Holond ful of grete dykes.

Northfolk ful of wyles :

Southfolk ful of styles.

I am of *Shropshire* my shines be sharpe :

Ley wode to the fyre, and dresse me my harpe.

Notyngbamsire ful of hogges :

Derbysire ful of dogges.

Leycetershire ful of benys :

Staffordshire ful of quenys.

Wilksire fayre and playne :

Barksire fyll the wayne.

Hampsire drye and wete :

Somersetsire good for whete.

Devenshire myghty and stronge :

Dorsetesire wil have no wronge.

Pyynnokshire is not to prayse :

A man may go it in to dayes.

Cornewayle γ ful of tynne :

Walys full of goote and kene.

That Lord that for us all dyde dye

Save all these shires. *Amen* δ say we.


E schedula quadam ab amicissimo pariter atque integerrimo
Viro THOMA WARD, A. M. & Collegii ORIELENSIS
socio, mecum communicata.

*Out of an old Roll for praying for the Soul of Dame Lucy De
Ver Foundress of Hengham Priory in Essex, An. 2. Ric. I.*

Titulus. *Ecclesia Sti. Petri & Westmonasterii. — Anima
Dominæ Lucie Priorissæ de Hengeham, & animæ omnium
fidelium defunctorum, per Dei misericordiam, requiescant
in pace. Amen.*

Concedimus ei commune beneficium Ecclesiæ nostræ.

Oravimus pro vestris, orate pro nostris.

 The said Dame *Lucy de Vere*, who was the Wife of
Alberic de Vere (Earl of OXFORD,) was the first Priorefs

α Sic. β Part of *Gloucestershire*, I think. γ So in the MS. not
is full, as in the said Transcript. δ It should be rather *I in the Sin-*
gular. ϵ Sic in schedula.

of this Place, and tho' the Priory was really built by her Husband, yet she was styl'd Foundress not only upon account of her Relation to him, but because she assisted him very much in carrying on the Foundation. She prov'd an excellent Governess, and was eminent for her great Judgment and Prudence; and as she gain'd upon the Affections of those that were more immediately under her care, so by her strict Devotion, exemplary Piety, wonderful Chastity, and her large Benefactions and Contributions to divers other Places she obtain'd the general Character of a truly virtuous, good Woman, and for that reason upon her Death she was mention'd in the Prayers not only of the Church of *Westminster* but of above fifty other Churches, as appears from the said Roll, where Mr. WARD observes the same Words repeated above fifty times, but constantly written in a different Hand. Every one of these Churches striv'd to outdo each other in shewing the Respect they had to the memory of this Lady, which made some of them write Verses upon the occasion, several of which occur in the said Roll, and are subjoyn'd to the abovemention'd Certificate of their Declaration in her behalf. For to one Copy are added:

Hæc virgo vitæ mirtus super astra loc { *atur.*
Et sic Lucix Lux sine fine d
Transit ad superos venerabilis hæc moni { *alis.*
Vix succedet ei virtutum munere t

To another:

Ad Lucem Lucia venit sine fine man { *entem.*
Et sic quem coluit Patrem videt Omnipot
Luci Lucix prece Lux mediante Mariæ
Luceat æterna, quia floruit ut rosa verna.

To another:

Tres tibi gemm { *atæ* } *lucent Lucia Cor* { *one.*
Insuper aur { *atæ* } *dic lætæ qua rati* { *one.*
Mater virgo t { *amen* } *Martir fuit. ergo æ luv* { *amen.*
Cernat ad ex { *amen* } *districti Judicis*

To another:

Subveniant animæ Lucix cælica quæque,
Ad quorum laudes β daptilis urna fuit.

To another:

Scandat ad astra poli virgo Lucia beata,
Quæ Christo soli fuit in terris famulata.

α Sic in schedula. Reponend. forsan, levamen. β Lege, daptilis.

To

XXXII

To another:

*Verax vita viâ te ditet Luce Lucia
In cœli propriâ cum virgine matre Maria.*

To another:

*Mors rapit omnia, sunt quia sompnia terrea quæque.
Nuda tuguria celsa palatia mors unit æque.*

This Priory being dedicated to the B. Virgin *Mary*, and the Holy Cross, for that reason upon the Roll is painted the Virgin *Mary*, and over her:

*Stella Maris, candoris ebur, speculum paradysi,
Fons veniæ, vitæ janua, virgo vale.*

And for the same reason a large Cross is painted upon the same Roll, and above it:

*Crux bona, Crux d { igna } Lignum super omnia l { igna.
Me tibi conf } redimens à peste mal }*

4 JY65



THE